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FOR AMBASSADOR BREMER

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SUBJECT: LETTER FOR AMB BREMER FROM TURKISH UNION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (TOBB)

The following letter addressed to Ambassador Bremer, was given to Ambassador Edelman on November 6, 2003 by Rifat Hisarciklioglu, President of TOBB, for forwarding to CPA:

Begin text of letter:

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to inform you that we as a delegation from the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) of Turkey wish to visit Iraq. TOBB is the umbrella organization representing the business community in Turkey. It has 361 local chambers in which 1 million 200 thousand companies are members. It is a democratic institution whose management is periodically elected.

The business community of Turkey has been doing it's best to contribute to the post-war reconstruction efforts in Iraq. It attaches great importance to the success of this enterprise. It believes that a high priority should be given to the improvement of the living conditions and well-being of the Iraqi people.

TOBB has been encouraging the business community to actively participate in the post-war Iraqi reconstruction process. To this end, it has organized several events to identify the difficulties the businessmen face in doing business in Iraq.

The TOBB delegation hopes to visit Iraq as soon as possible in order to observe the problems on the spot. On that occasion they would like to meet you and your colleagues, members of the Governing Council, Iraqi ministers as well as Iraqi business representatives. Our main objective is both to gather first-hand information and build communication channels with the Iraqi people so as to be able to guide the Turkish business community, contribute to private sector development and help civil society institutions in Iraq. Therefore we also wish to meet with the representatives of Iraqi civil society, chambers, business associations, etc.

During this visit we would like to discuss the following issues which we consider important to be addressed in the short term:

a) Transport safety is still one of the main problems. Due to the security situation, the Turkish companies whose contracts were accepted by the UN face difficulties in shipment. A temporary solution, similar to the one applied in June, should be introduced. Goods should be transported up to, for instance, Dohuk by Turkish trucks and the risks involved taken by the Turkish businessmen while the responsibility for the distribution of goods within Iraq will be assumed by Iraqi citizens.

b) Operations should be restored and security ensured for the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline in cooperation with BOTAS, partner company resident in Turkey.

c) In order to contribute to the private sector development in Iraq, we would like to collaborate with our counterparts within the framework of Turkish Iraqi Business Council, in which the Turkish participants are known, but for the moment the Iraqi side is not performing effectively.

d) We would also like to establish a TOBB Liaison Office in Baghdad to encourage closer relations between Iraqi and Turkish companies.

e) We would like to visit Iraq, if possible, by a Turkish Airlines (THY) scheduled flight. As a means for regular contacts between Baghdad and Ankara, however, we expect THY to resume its operations to and from Baghdad. To grant this permission would obviously impart a visible symbolic significance to our visit to Iraq.

f) Ziraat Bank, which is a publicly owned commercial bank in Turkey, would like to establish a branch in Baghdad. Granting the necessary permission to Ziraat Bank would be greatly appreciated as a gesture on the part of your administration.

Looking forward to seeing you in Baghdad, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

M. Rifat Hisarciklioglu
President

End of text.
EDELMAN